THE WORKERS'

DREADNOUGHT

Socialism, Internationalism, Votes for All.

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A SUFFRAGE PIONEER

Mrs. Wolstenholme Elmy, one of the little group of pioneers who started the first Women's Suffrage Society in 1865, lived just long enough to see the Parliamentary franchise granted to some women. She died on March 12th at the age of 84. She began work as a school teacher, and struggled to obtain greater educational opportunities for women. She was instrumental in inducing Cambridge University to hold the local examinations for schools. She worked for the opening of the Universities to women. She and her husband, Ben Elmy, who wrote as Ellis Ethelmer, were probably the first people in this country to advocate and to provide facilities for sex education for children. She collaborated with Josephine Butler in securing the abolition of the C.D. Acts; she was foremost in the campaign for the Married Woman's Property Act, the Act which makes the widowed mother the legal parent of her children, and in obtaining many other ameliorations of the bad laws which at the beginning of her life relegated the legal position of woman to that of a slave. When others faltered because the cause was unpopular and the goal seemed far away Mrs. Elmy remained constant and steadfast, and accomplished an immensity of work. The women of to-day and to-morrow will never know how much they owe to her; but those of the younger generation who have been privileged to know her and work with her will not forget the inspiration which they derived from her selfless devotion to principle and keen, vigorous, and never-pausing industry in the cause. Even in her extreme old age she rose during the small hours of the morning in order that all her housework and cooking for the day might be finished before nine a.m. in order that she might devote the rest of her time to toiling for the cause of women and pro-

ELIZABETH WOLSTENHOLME ELMY.

gress. When the younger generations of women began going to prison for the franchise and were abused and ostracised for what they had done, she lent them her support, and, old as she was, joined them in processions and demonstrations; even offered herself for arrest by joining the forbidden deputations to the House of Commons.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

We are glad to note that New Brunswick is to give votes to women.

Of Special Interest This Week

Lenin's Prophecy
By E. S. PANKHURST

The Torture of Ex-Inspector Syme

A War for Trade

FROM AMERICA

The Editor of the "Call-to-Action," South Dakota, U.S.A., writes:—"I find much in your paper to cheer me, for it shows that England is not all as bad as pictured by the daily Press reports. And when the light is let through, you peace advocates in England will find that the War would last for four or five years, that idea is undergoing a change, and they are considering negotiations more. The light raised by the Bolsheviks is extending westward, and its rays have reached America. There has been considerable change in the attitude of the militarists; even President Wilson is considering peace negotiations that he absolutely ignored less than a year ago. When we consider what the Russians have done, and what the masses in Germany and Austria are likely to do soon, there is good reason to look to the future with faith and hope that a not distant cessation of hostilities will come to pass, and that peace and common sense will prevail once more.—Yours, for the cause of humanity, ALLI REED."

JAPAN AND RUSSIA By Arthur Finch

In view of the proposed intervention of Japan in Siberia, and the tacit agreement of Lord Robert Cecil to such an invasion of the country of a Sovereign State, will you allow me to give, as a close student of Far Eastern affairs, some weighty reasons why such intervention is, apart from its avowed breaking of the Law of Nations, which this country pledged itself to uphold in the War, dangerous to the cause of human liberty.

Since Japan's bombardment of Kaio-chau, a port and bay, be it remembered, only on lease to Germany by China, to which by the law of nations it must return after the war for her absolute right of disposal as she thinks fit, the Tokyo Government has been carrying on an incessant policy of brow-beating China. Early in 1915 the infamous twenty-one demands, which were forced on China at the threat of war, though to the honour of China's statesman, Wu Ting Fang, the worst clauses were withdrawn for "future consideration," have indicated the growth of a desire on the part of Japan's rulers to establish a Monroe doctrine in the Far East. Since the humiliation in 1915, China has been terrorised by brigands, supported and financed by the Gen-Yosha ultra-militarist organisation of Japan, which was responsible for the Prussianisation of Korea in 1895, under the aegis of Field Marshal Terauchi, now Prime Minister of Japan. When the troubles in Manchuria and elsewhere have become formidable, the Japanese censored Press has pleaded for "immediate action" to be taken to suppress this disorder, and protect "Japanese interests." This was the formula prepared by British, French, German, and other "great" Powers—in Zululand and Egypt, Tunis and Algiers, the French Congo, and Poland; disorders in ninety-nine out of every hundred cases directly brought about by themselves or their agents as Blue Books have proved up to the hilt. One such "disorder" took place in August, 1916, at Chenchiatun, when during a fracas some Japanese soldiers were killed. These soldiers had no right to be there, and the Japanese merchant, with whom the dispute arose, one Yoshimoto was, it appears, endeavouring to carry on smuggling against the law of the land for aiding the "revolutionaries," who were continually passing into Manchuria from Japan on false passports. For two years the Chinese Government had protested against the stationing of Japanese troops in this district; but of no avail. This was the opportunity for more demands—four in all. The last asks that China agrees to stationing Japanese police officers in parts of South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, *"for the protection of Japanese subjects"* (my italics). China also to agree to the engagement by the officials of South Manchuria of "Japanese police advisers." Again Dr. Wu Ting Fang, to his honour, refused to acquiesce, and pointed out that in the agreement, as a result of the twenty-one demands, made on May 25th, 1915, all Japanese subjects in South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia shall "submit to the police laws and ordinances and taxation of China."

Only last year it was common knowledge in well-informed circles in China that a secret Sino-Japanese loan and treaty was on the tapis. The terms are said to be that the Tokyo Government agrees to lend 100 million yen (1 yen equals 2s. 0½d.) for the creation of a Chinese army, together with the building of a number of arsenals, to be partly erected by Japanese contractors. General Tuan Chijui, who was to act on behalf of China in the transaction, was, and is still the head of China's Government, and a militarist. The result of such a pact means, of course, that China will be directly under Japanese control. At this time, June, 1917, the censored Press of Japan was pleading for a Sino-Japanese military alliance to protect China from foreign powers!

Of course, Japan does not need to have a military dictatorship in China yet; for she has already got control of the vast mineral resources of China, and behind all Japan's activities both proposed in Siberia and in China is the shortage of coal and iron in her territory. There is the key to Japan's policy; and it was the security of such deposits against loans to China which has been the governing fact in the loan transactions of the past four years. The "New Republic," the organ of President Wilson, has already pointed out that Shantung province, on lease to Germany before 1914, is virtually a Japanese possession. And why? Because it possesses valuable coal-fields. I could go into every province of China, where Japan has endeavoured to get control, and show that it was the possession of coal and iron ore that influenced Japan in making her onslaughts either commercially or otherwise.

What was Japan's attitude to Russia, when dependent on her for materials of war? It was the opportunity, founded on the international game of greed amongst the big Powers, to push her interests into Manchuria, then into Mongolia, and now we have the consummation of that policy—the move on in Siberia. It is all so simple, that a child could understand it, if it were not sophisticated with the useless knowledge of the schools. German penetration has nothing whatever to do with the subject of Japan's proposed intervention. It is Welt-politik: Terauchi is the Bismarck of 1918. He knows what he wants, and he is determined to get it. That explains America's "reluctance to agree to Japan's activity." Of course, the United States having for three years had its Press filled with the misdeeds of Japan, now "happily" transfigured by the agreement of November and, which recognises "that Japan has special rights in China . . . .," cannot acquiesce in another South Manchuria and Eastern Inner Mongolia, where the open-door policy has been destroyed, and Japan's interests are predominant. Washington certainly cannot ignore the protest of the overseas manufacturing interests of the United States in the latter part of 1916, and, above all, Mr. Lansing, who received the protest.

Like the old Russia, wherever its policy spreads, Japan has excluded the free rights of others—Formosa, Korea, and—what next? Remember the words of Palmerston, for although like all "statesmen," he broke them in forcing war on China in the interests of the East India Company, they nevertheless contain the principle on which this country must stand in its attitude towards Japan. Speaking in the House of Commons on June 1st, 1829, in the debate on Portuguese affairs, he said:

"Every nation has a right to manage its own affairs, as it pleases. And one nation has no right to control by force of arms the will of another nation in the choice of its own Government."

Next week's issue will be our EASTER DOUBLE NUMBER and First Number of Volume V. You will need extra copies. It will contain

WORKSHOP NOTES by W. F. Watson, and
SINN FEIN SUPPLEMENT.

ORIGINAL IMPERFECT.

THE WORKERS' DREADNOUGHT
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ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.

LENIN'S PROPHECY

The annexationist terms which the Central Empires have forced on Russia have given the Allied Governments and their Jingo supporters an opportunity to cry: "We told you so; here is proof that we must win the War, lest Germany do this to all of us." The Allied Prime Ministers have issued a statement declaring that "they feel it to be their bounden duty to take note of the political crimes which in the name of a German peace have been committed against the Russian people." They say:

"Our own ends are very different; we are fighting in order to finish once for all with this policy of plunder and to establish in its place the peaceful reign of organised justice."

But the Secret Treaties convict the Allied Governments of duplicity, and prove their aims to be identical with those of Germany. The new-found sympathy with Russia which Mr. Balfour, President Wilson, and other Allied statesmen are now professing, was not forthcoming during the peace negotiations at Brest-Litovsk. If the Allied Governments had there backed the Bolshevik efforts to secure a just peace, on the basis of no annexations, no indemnities, the right of the peoples to decide their own destinies, a general peace on that basis might have been arranged.

The Allied Governments did not support Russia at Brest because they did not, and still do not, desire a just peace; like Germany, they are fighting for plunder. How falsely sound their denunciations of the German invasion of Russia in the West, in view of their efforts to arrange for a Japanese invasion of Russia in the East! Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons on March 14th, admitted the intent to procure a Japanese invasion, but untruthfully pretended that "the Japanese would be the friends and not the enemies of Russia," and that the invasion would not be undertaken "with any hope of gain." Such speeches are made in order that the Press may report them to still the doubts of good and guileless people outside the House. His words did not deceive the Government's Jingo supporters, whose interruptions clearly showed their determination that if there is to be a chance of plunder the Allies shall get as much as they can of the spoils. The plea of Lance-Corporal Lees Smith that the Allies should not take advantage of Russia's defeat and helplessness fell on deaf ears.

Whilst America and Japan are still supposed to be discussing the wisdom of an Allied expedition into Russia from the East, it is reported that Japanese and Chinese have actually begun the invasion by joining the Russian counter-Revolutionary forces which are fighting against the Bolsheviks at Blagovestchensk in Siberia.

The Press is loud and constant in predicting woe and disaster to the Bolsheviks; yet those glorious indomitables continue to surmount the storm. It is evident that they command the support of the majority of the Russian people, and that their majority is growing and consolidating. It was predicted that the Soviet Congress would overthrow Lenin because his Government had decided provisionally to submit to the German peace terms, the country not being able further to resist; but the Congress ratified this action by 704 votes to 261, with 110 abstentions. In that Congress, 732 of the delegates were Bolsheviks, 238 Social Revolutionaries of the Left wing, who in most things support the Bolsheviks though a proportion has dissented on this question of the peace terms. The remainder of the delegates represented seven other parties. The entire Congress only numbered 1,084.

Can the Russian Socialists maintain their Revolution in face of the lawless determination of the capitalists of all the great Powers to destroy it? That is the question which Socialists everywhere are asking. The opportunists declare that if the Revolution is overthrown, and already they appear convinced that it cannot stand, the futility of the Bolshevik policy will be demonstrated thereby; and their own contention will be established that the right course for Russians was to content themselves with the abolition of the Czardom and to allow, even assist the upgrowing of an extensively rooted capitalist regime, like that of Britain and America, to be retained until some far distant time when the civilisations of mankind will somehow pass almost imperceptibly into Socialism. That is emphatically not our view, for even should the Bolsheviks never have come to power or have maintained their administration but for a day, we believe the fact that a Socialist Government had existed somewhere, sometime, would have heartened all subsequent efforts thereto.

But the Bolshevik Government is still with us, and the Bolshevik manifestoes confidently insist that so far from being crushed in Russia, the Socialist revolution will shortly spread into all countries. And in spite of all the sloth and apathy which oppresses us in these countries where ignorance still enchains the workers, the Bolshevik view is not merely a case of a wish having fathered a thought, but is broadly based on a calm, scientific reading of the cataclysmic changes through which this unfortunate world of ours is passing, and of the long struggle of mankind to dominate matter which has animated the development of our species and brought us here from the far-off age of the cave man.

Russia has often been named unconquerable. Imperialistic ambitions have again and again found their grave there. As Napoleon discovered, her climate and her vast undeveloped stretches of territory are her allies against invasion. The conditions which are cited as reasons for Russia's inability to continue the War, are the conditions which defy the conqueror. Mr. R. C. Martens, a well-known Russian merchant and one of those Russian apologists who would assure themselves and the Allies that Russia may shortly be brought back to the capitalist fold and become a fruitful source of wealth to the enterprising capitalists of the Allied nations, has written a leaflet, "Justice for Russia." He there explains that Russia possesses only half a mile of railway to every 100 square miles of her land, as compared with nearly 20 miles in this country. During the War the Russian railways have degenerated, the rails and the rolling stock have fallen into decay. It is difficult for the Russians to repair the railways; it is still more difficult for an invader to do so. Before the War, Mr. Martens tells us, Russia had only one factory to 150 British factories, though her population is 180,000,000 and ours 45,000,000. Therefore Russia was largely dependent on other countries for manufactured goods, and even those industries which she had—mining, engineering, chemicals, textiles and so on—were dependent on Germany for their supplies of tools and machinery. For the German invaders, hard-pressed by the waste and toil of war in maintaining their own industries, how is it possible to provide equipment for the industries of Russia? And if the Allies are the invaders, the difficulties will nevertheless be formidable. The world shortage created by the War will operate in their case as in that of the Central Empires. Moreover, a glance at the map brings home to us that a War might be fought and lost or won in the Vladivostok region without affecting Petrograd unless, as has been the case in the War, the Baltic ports were blockaded and Western supplies cut off. Whether the armies be those of Russia or the Central Empires, the transport difficulties which paralysed Russian military activities and are causing starvation to her people, will face the invaders in intensified form. Mr. Martens explains that on his visit last year to Samara, the centre of the Russian grain trade, he saw the people standing in long flour queues, because the railways had failed to bring fuel, though the granaries were full and modern mills perfectly equipped. The hostility of the native population always increases such difficulties in the cases of invading armies, and the Russian workers and peasants who have learnt the solidarity to overthrow their own rulers will meet the invaders as the armies of great Powers are not met when they send punitive expeditions against more primitive peoples. We greatly mistake the temper of the Soviets and of those whom they represent, if the invaders of Russia do not find the subduing of the Socialist populations of the Russian Empire a more difficult task than any hitherto attempted by any invaders; for in every other War the people have been pawns; in the War against the Russian Socialist Republic the people are principals. The peace with Germany is no peace: Germany is still trying to conquer the territories ceded to her and the people of the territories retained by Russia are preparing for the next trial of strength with Germany. The Left Social Revolutionaries are already preparing to fight against the Germans. We believe that ultimately it will be found that industrial solidarity is the strongest weapon of the Russian as well as of all other workers.

The Bolshevik resolution, which was adopted by the Soviet Congress just concluded, expresses its deep conviction that:

"a workmen's revolution is near, and that the victory of the Socialist proletariat is assured in spite of savage measures due to Imperialistic intervention."

Lenin declared the peace with Germany to be but a temporary respite during which the Socialists could prepare themselves without interference from Germany, for the time when the other European workers will join the Russians in the struggle for Socialism. The Bolsheviks still believe that when the necessary point of exhaustion and war-weariness has been reached the other peoples of Europe will awake as the peoples of Russia have done. And, looking at the map of this Eastern hemisphere, seeing that in spreading from Petrograd to Vladivostok Bolshevism has travelled across the greatest breadth of it, for in actual mileage Petrograd is much nearer to London than is Vladivostok, considering that the great causes which have created the Bolshevik revolution are operating all over Europe; does it not seem at least possible that Lenin's prediction will come true? Meanwhile strikes are again breaking out in Austria, and there is said to be much fraternisation amongst the Italian and Austrian troops. War feeling has never been strong in Italy.

Lenin is not alone in his prediction; Lord Lansdowne, who has been watching the affairs of Europe a long time, sees the red light too. Lord Lansdowne is a hard old man not easily moved to pity. We saw him curtly brush aside the old-age pensioners in St. Stephen's Hall, who stretched out their feeble, trembling hands to him in piteous appeals. He watches Europe not, as Lenin does, in the interests of the people, but in the Conservative interest, in the interest of those who are wealthy and privileged by the accident of birth, or are endowed with an unusually strong acquisitive power, the grossest, least worthy of all the talents. Lord Lansdowne is carefully playing the game of the privileged class against the workers. He sees that the War is becoming dangerous to the capitalism for which it is fought; that the War spreads like a fire and grows more and more difficult to extinguish. As the class-conscious worker sees what is hidden from his unawakened comrade, so Lord Lansdowne discerns that which does not appear to the less intelligent Jingo capitalist, who merely thinks of the dividends which he will be able to pile up through the extension of Allied and the restriction of Enemy trade and territory.

Lord Lansdowne's record as an opponent of progress should make his standpoint clear to all of us, yet we find Socialists adopting Lord Lansdowne as their leader, regardless of the fact that he and such as he, if they are allowed a hand in the making of peace terms, will build the peace on the very foundation and in the self-same spirit that have created the War. The Lansdowne policy differs but in detail from the Lloyd George-Northcliffe policy: it is the policy of oppression and future war. The Lenin Bolshevik policy is the policy of lasting peace. The League of Nations, of which there is now so much talk, will not ensure world-peace or the freedom of weaker nations, so long as competitive capitalism endure. A League of Socialist Peoples is what we want; not a League of Capitalist Governments. Meanwhile we must devote our energies to the study and propagation of Socialism. The revolt of the peoples will assuredly come, but only Socialist knowledge can save the revolt from futility.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

FINNISH GREED

Finnish capitalists, whose country was so lately released from Czarist oppression by the Russian Socialists, are showing themselves to be as greedy of territory as any other race of capitalists. They are endeavouring to snatch the Kola Peninsula from Russia, and the Aaland Islands, where the people are said to have expressed a wish to be annexed to Sweden. Finland is also demanding a part of Norway, and offering Norway a bit of Russian territory in exchange.

REVOLUTION AND DRINK

Mr. J. R. Clynes, M.P., the one-time cotton operative, who has become assistant Food Controller, told Parliament on March 12th, that he did not think teetotalism could be reckoned on as a means of winning the War. He thought it was "a matter of speculation whether the abolition of vodka had not something to do with the state of discontent, which brought about the Revolution in Russia," we think it had! But surely Mr. Clynes should rejoice at that!

THE SCHOOLING OF THE FUTURE
with special reference to the Education Bill
By E. SYLVIA PANKHURST

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QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

A WAR FOR TRADE

The following notice circulated by the Russo-British News Bureau Ltd., is one more of the many illustrations proving this War to be a capitalist war. The writer refers to enemy "influence," "propaganda," and "activities," and indicates beyond a shadow of doubt that he is thinking not of military operations or of any oppression of the populace, but of trading and money making. The British capitalists may induce themselves to believe that it is essential to world progress that they, and not German capitalists shall secure riches "beyond the dreams of avarice." But do the workers of the various countries really think so? The "real people," who, according to this document, are making desperate efforts to overthrow the Bolsheviks are evidently the commercial classes.

"In view of the fact that Germany, through her recent 'conquests' in Russia has secured control of the ports of the Baltic provinces and of the Black Sea, it would be interesting to know what steps, if any, the Allies are taking to counteract the spread of Teutonic influence in Russia. For even if, as is believed in well informed quarters, the Germans do not find sufficient supplies for their immediate requirements owing to the annexed and occupied territory having been denuded early in the war of the greater part of its natural wealth, there is the political factor which should not be overlooked. The bringing of such an extensive area under German influence is an event of the highest importance politically considered as it will enable the enemy to permeate the whole of Russia lying north-west of the Urals and Middle Siberia, with its propaganda, the ports under German control providing the open door of commerce for those more distant territories. It may be taken for granted that Germany will not confine her activities within the frontiers of the Baltic provinces, but will seek to extend them much further afield in the hope that she may have first place in the development of resources which are described as being rich "beyond the dreams of avarice." What are the Allies, and England in particular, doing to stem the tide of German influence?

Prominent Englishmen who have recently returned from Petrograd assert that the real people of Russia are making desperate efforts to overthrow the Bolsheviks, and that when they have succeeded, Russia will be found on the side of, and give support to, the Allies at the Peace Conference, though they may not again take the field. What assistance is the British Foreign Intelligence Department giving in the way of propaganda to further the cause of the Allies in Russia and to give support to those Russians who are fighting to overwhelm Bolshevism and to prevent the Germanisation of their country?"

ROUMANIAN & BESSARABIAN JEWS

The Jewish Press Bureau in Stockholm announces that Austrian and German Jews are greatly concerned about the treatment which is to be accorded to the Jews of Bessarabia and Roumania in the peace treaty between Roumania and the Central Empires. The Roumanian Jews are at present altogether without political rights; the Roumanian Government having disregarded the provisions in favour of the Jews contained in the Treaty of Berlin of July 13th, 1878.

The Russian Government, since the Revolution, has extended to the Jews of Bessarabia in common with all Jews within the Russian Empire equal political rights with all Russian subjects. The Jews fear that the Roumanian Government will take away those rights from the Bessarabian Jews who have come under its control. Are the Austrian and German Jews, who are demanding Jewish freedom, prepared to support the Socialists who will give it to them?

FOOD RATIONS

Capitalist Governments always endeavour to divide against themselves the forces of working-class opposition. The graduated rationing scheme is the latest instance of this; we are told that at a recent meeting of the London Labour Party the delegates wasted much time in discussing such questions as whether a compositor requires more food than a docker. No one seems to have observed the scandalous and absurd decision that charwomen and washerwomen are not to be classed as heavy manual workers. By the way, civilians get 1¼ lbs. of meat and equivalents, whilst military and naval men on home service, including clerks on sedentary work get 6 lb. 2 oz. At the front men get 8¾ lbs.

EX-INSPECTOR SYME

Mr. John Syme, who has been released from Pentonville Prison under the Cat and Mouse Act, writes :—

"Once more, after twelve days on hunger strike I have been released with orders from the Home Secretary to return to prison on March 26th, failing, which I am to be re-arrested. I am further informed that this is my last chance and that if I again refuse to take the food provided, I shall not be forcibly fed (all attempts thereat hitherto have utterly failed) but will be allowed to die.

I have not given recognizance for my release or return to prison. I have told the Prison Governor to inform the Home Secretary that I will not surrender myself on 26th, inst., that, if he persists in his persecution of me and has me re-arrested, I shall refuse my food and that the responsibility for my death will be on him.

I am therefore now in the position of a prisoner condemned to death but reprieved and released for a fortnight so that my health and strength may be built up after the strain and torture of the forcible feeding which the Prison Authorities now recognise to be an utter failure in my case. Faced with the prospect and possibility of death, within a month or six weeks, for the crime of persisting in demanding a public inquiry into the corruption of the London Police Service, into the blackmailing by police officers of high rank of brothel and gambling house keepers, of thieves and receivers of stolen property, of bookmakers and prostitutes, of publicans and in fact all classes of tradesmen; and into the manufacturing of crime by agents provocateur in the pay of police and the consequent perjury by police officers, I earnestly appeal to all classes of the community, but particularly to the working people (who are the greatest sufferers under the corruption of the police system)—to call upon the Government for a thorough, searching public inquiry.

For over eight years I have had to face the most bitter opposition, hostility and persecution from Government Departments, which ought, in the public interest, to have been only too anxious to put things right. Why do these Departments—the Home Office and Public Prosecutor—fear an inquiry if I am wrong?

Members of Parliament of all political parties—Tory, Liberal and Labour alike—have expressed their sympathy with me in my fight and have admitted their knowledge of the terrible condition of our public administration, but all seem alike afraid to tackle the officials concerned and responsible.

Ten times have I been arrested, yet never have I had a hearing of my case: the Government has spent money freely and employed the Attorney Generals and high legal luminaries to prevent the truth coming out.

I have never asked the British public to accept the truth of my accusation, without enquiry. All I have ever sought is a thorough enquiry. Such enquiry would settle the question whether I am telling the truth or otherwise. My charges are serious, and, as they affect the probity and honour of the public administration, they ought to be investigated.

The demand for public inquiry into New York Police corruption was only brought to a successful hearing after the principal witness against the corrupt officials had been done to death by order of Lieut. Becker. Is London to follow the precedent set by New York? Will enquiry into Metropolitan Police corruption come only after the removal of Ex-Inspector Syme?

Even so, it will be well: my work will be accomplished."

John Syme is punished because he is endeavouring to expose corruption. Resolutions should be passed demanding his release. If the Police Trade Union were strong it would take action to prevent this victimisation.

POLITICAL SLAVERY IN THE ARMY

The following regulation is posted in barracks, camps, etc., used by the British troops :—

Para. 451, King's Regulations: "An officer or soldier is forbidden to institute or take part in any meeting, demonstration, or procession for party or political purposes in barracks, camps, or their vicinity. Under no circumstances whatever will he attend such a meeting, wherever held, in uniform."

It should be noticed that as soldiers of the rank and file are forbidden to wear civilian clothes, to refuse to allow them to attend public meetings in uniform is to prohibit them from attending meetings at all. The General Election is said to be approaching. The franchise has given to the soldiers votes, yet they are being debarred from attending at the meetings where the views of the rival parties which will shortly claim their votes are being expounded. Soldiers tell us that when jingo meetings, "Tank" meetings, etc., are being held, their officers urge them to attend, disregarding the regulation which they insist shall be enforced where Labour, Socialist, and Peace meetings are concerned. Political slavery still obtains in the British Army.

PENSIONS TO BE CUT DOWN

Naval and Military pensions and allowances have been anything but generous in the past, and a long-continued agitation has been needed to raise them to their present standard. The Select Committee on National Expenditure has now made recommendations which, if adopted, will tend to reduce that standard.

The Committee complains, quite unjustifiably as we think, that men are receiving pensions on the basis of disabilities which have been only slightly increased by War service. The Committee considers that the pension should only be on the basis of the increase. The Committee fears that "grave abuses" may result from the provision that a soldier who falls into ill-health in the future may make a claim for a pension based on the War hardships he has suffered. The Committee desires to start a time limit and other restrictions. The Committee further protests against the view that a woman should be pensioned whose husband died during War service, and that parents should be pensioned who were not dependent on their dead sons.

We ask the Committee what is to happen to ex-soldiers who are too ill to work, though they cannot prove their illness to be due to War service, and what is to happen to the widows, orphans, and aged or infirm parents of soldiers who are not, in the opinion of the authorities, entitled to pension? If such persons are unable to work for a living they must either be kept by the community or left to starve.

The Committee further indicates that after the War attempts will be made to reduce the pensions; it protests against the fixing of permanent pensions on the plea that prices may fall in years to come. The Committee desires the appointment of Treasury officers to check the expenditure of Local Committees; that means cutting down the grants! It is also recommended that the Ministry shall have a representative at the Appeal Tribunal, whose duty will apparently be to endeavour to secure the refusal or reduction of pensions, and that all cases where dependants are awarded a pension over 7s. 6d. a week shall be reviewed with the aid of a local inquiry. All this means that the interests of soldiers and sailors and their dependants are seriously menaced.

A SOCIALIST ARTIST

"Nowhere, except in Russia, can you find such almost superhuman devotion of a Militant Socialist to the community, sacrificing the whole life to the beautiful ideal of emancipation, sacrificing, without the slightest hesitation, honour, comfort liberty, nay, life itself. The amount of practical idealism, which has been shown for the last thirty years by those, who have risen in defence of the proletariat, and the Revolution, cannot be conceived. Men, women, even children, proletarians in the factories or in the Universities, scholars, artists, writers, workmen, peasants—without distinction of origin or surroundings—have given themselves enirely to the Cause by hundreds, by thousands, without a moment of flinching. This is what occurred to our mind yesterday, when we received the visit of a young and brilliant Russian artist, Mr. Edvard Scœrmus. This remarkable musician possesses a thorough technique of his art, an exquisite delicacy of sentiment with which he interprets the best works of Grieg, Sarasate, Chopin. In the words of our camarades of the "Avanti"—"He expresses in original and powerful works, all the notes, all the tribulations of passion." Edward Scœrmus, of Esthonian origin, was scarcely 24 when, as a student of Petersburg Conservatory, he took an active part in the Social Democratic propaganda, which caused his imprisonment. It is in the jails of the autocracy, that he composed one of his best works, "The Invocation," which, together with "Revolutionary Funeral March," he interpreted all over Europe—in Sweden, in Norway, in Germany, in Switzerland, and in Italy. He went everywhere and acquainted the working people—in the words of one of our Socialist comrades—with inestimable treasures of art hidden in his soul, revealing with his bow the finest details of psychological analysis, revealing a new world of profound emotions, and refusing to perform for anyone except proletarians. As our comrades of "Volksrecht" of Zurich stated: "It is at one time the savage grief of enslaved humanity which yearns for liberty; at another time—as in his 'Invocation'—the song of joy at the approaching Revolution which must break all the chains."—"L'Humanité," Paris.

Scœrmus is a great Violinist, and a still greater agitator. His art is the savage grief of enslaved humanity which yearns for liberty, and his "Invocation" is the song of joy for the approaching Revolution which must break all the chains. His violin speaks all the languages and penetrates all the hearts.—"Volksrecht," Zürich, 1908.

It is impossible to describe the feelings of the numerous listeners, who, were conjured by the truly magic violin of Scœrmus, who can speak to the soul, piercing it and making it vibrate by his violin. The various numbers of the programme were performed in a truly masterly manner.—"Il Lavoro," Genoa.

Mr. Edvard Scœrmus has kindly consented to give a number of concerts for the W.S.F. and other Socialist organisations in London and the provinces. Those wishing to arrange dates should write to Mrs. Bouvier, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

March 12th.—A petition "praying" for the Military Service Acts to be enforced in Ireland "immediately" was presented by Sir R. Cooper. It was signed by 103,000 members of the public and 45 Members of the House! Surely this cannot be regarded as a plebiscite which expresses the will of the majority!!!

WHEN IS A PENSION EARNED?

Asked as to what a soldier in the W. Reserve, so ill as to be unfit for any employment, should do to obtain a pension, Mr. Macpherson wished to be given notice of the question, as it raised a "difficult issue." Surely the man ought to get his dismissal and the pension due to him.

ORGANISATION.

Mr. W. Thorne (Lab.) stated that at Bakewell a boot and shoe operative in an appeal case declared that his employer had declined to appeal for his employees since they had joined the National Society of Boot and Shoe Operatives.

WASTE.

Mr. Thorne also drew attention to the 5,424 rabbits which were condemned as unfit for food by a Chesterfield health authority.

WHY WOMEN?

Women earning "exceptional" wages, Mr. Lough (L.) advocated should be encouraged to provide for their older years by purchasing deferred annuities. We should like to point out that what is sauce for the goose is also sauce for the gander.

DRINK EXPENDITURE.

The drink bill in 1914 was £164,000,000 Mr. Leif Jones declared. The Prime Minister had urged then that such an expenditure was too extravagant during the War. The bill, however, for 1917, Mr. Jones stated, was £259,000,000! And yet the country was threatened with a bread shortage! He naturally argued on temperance lines; but no one can deny the validity of condemning such a monstrous outlay, especially when there is a world shortage of food. Mr. Clynes argued that working-class opinion must be considered! Is it not rather brewer's opinion?

SHIPBUILDING.

When shipbuilding was being reviewed, many voices were raised in condemnation of the standard ships. By far the greatest attack was that of Sir Walter Runciman. He pointed out the mistake of sending down men to the yards to teach other men who were practical and "geniuses at their work." He also condemned the Government for being so slow in making up its mind as to what it wanted, it takes six months, whereas he, Sir Walter, never took more than a quarter of an hour, to make a contract! It looks as though the Government would have done well to engage his services! Dr. Macnamara made a weak speech and admitted that "we have made mistakes, of course."

RECONSTRUCTION.

Captain Sheehan (I.N.) returned to the attack on the subject of lack of representation for Ireland in the various reconscruction schemes. He pointed out that extra war taxation was extorted from Ireland to the extent of £11,000,000 or £12,000,000 a year. Surely something ought to be returned for development purposes. Mr. Duke allowed that much was necessary to be done in housing and admitted that "there is a state of things existing in the places which have been mentioned . . . which would move the heart of a miser."

Procedure of Wednesday and Thursday discussed in general news.

WHATS' ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUT DOOR

FRIDAY, MARCH 22nd.
St. Stephen's Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd.
Great Push for Socialism, Peace and Votes for All in Camberwell. Meet at 2.30 and 6 p.m. at 85, Camberwell Grove (near Camberwell Green). Meetings at 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Price, Mrs. Walker, and others.
SUNDAY, MARCH 24th.
Dock Gates (Poplar Labour Party Meeting), 11 a.m., Mrs. Walker, Mr. Ch. Wright. Chair: Councillor Marsh.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.45 a.m., Miss Price.
Finsbury Park, 3.30 p.m., Miss Rickards.
TUESDAY, MARCH 26th.
Hoxton, 11 a.m., Miss Price, Miss Beamish.

INDOOR

MONDAY, MARCH 25th.
44 Malden Road, St. Pancras W.S.F., 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Social Evening (Bow Branch).
TUESDAY, MARCH 26th.
Norwood W.S.F.'s Sale of Work, 7 p.m., Miss Lynch, Miss Smyth.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27th.
144 Seven Sisters Road (Holloway Women's Co-operative Guild), 2.30 p.m., Miss Lynch.
Bow Women's Hall, 8 p.m., Speakers' Class. Instructor: Mr. L. Hogben.

FEDERATION NOTES
HAMMERSMITH.

The Great Push in this district on Saturday last was one more proof that people are eager to listen to the advocacy of peace and a new world order. Our audiences were large and enthusiastic. Over 100 DREADNOUGHTS were sold and the collection amounted to 20s. For next "Great Push" see meetings list.

BOW AND POPLAR.—The social held at 400 Old Ford Road, on March 16th, was very successful, thanks to Mr. Watts, M.C. Mr. Broadbear, who played dance after dance, Miss Lily Ainsworth, a most graceful little dancer, Mr. Ellis and Jack Ellis who sang Irish songs and Edward Fuller and Dorothy Matthews who played a sketch "Scrooge and Morley." Friends who bought tickets for the Japanese doll should note that the result is held over till next social. Those who have not yet done so are asked to return money and all unsold tickets as soon as possible. On Sunday, at the Women's Hall, speeches were delivered by Mr. Carter, N.U.R., and Miss Pankhurst. Mrs. Bouvier took the chair. The ordinary social and business meetings of the Bow branch will be resumed next Monday. The Secretary, Miss Lynch, 400 Old Ford Road, hopes that members will make a point of coming punctually as the branch business is done at the beginning of the evening.

PROVINCES

Mrs. Bouvier addressed a series of very successful meetings in South Wales on "The Situation in Russia." In Abertillery and Blaina she spoke under the auspices of the "New Era"; in Cardiff for the Women's Peace Crusade; and in Pontardawe for the F.O.R. In the latter place there is every prospect of a W.S.F. branch being started.

MANCHESTER.—(Hon. Sec., Miss Nagley, 271 Moss Lane East.) Miss O'Callaghan, sub-editor of the "Dreadnought," spoke for this branch at the Onward Buildings, on the Irish Rebellion, Friday, March 15th. The room was nearly full and the audience greatly interested. The speaker showed that all reforms in Ireland would be futile until Ireland was ruled by the Irish. An interesting discussion followed and many questions were asked. There was a good sale of "Dreadnoughts," and each one present was given a "Dreadnought" leaflet. Several new members were made. On March 13th, Miss O'Callaghan addressed a joint meeting of the W.S.F. and N.C.F. on the aims and objects of the W.S.F. On March 16th, a W.S.F. social and dance was held at the Cheetham Liberal Club. Mr. Jacobs, Mr. McMurdo, Miss Nagley and Miss Lilbeson helped to make this a most enjoyable evening. Meetings are being arranged for Mr. Hogben in April.

BIRMINGHAM.—(Hon. Sec., Miss Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley, Birmingham.) Miss Muriel Matters addressed most successful meetings on the "Montessori" method. One of these was on March 9th, at Westhill, the other, an evening meeting, was packed.

* * *

MISS MURIEL MATTERS ON THE MONTESSORI METHOD.—Organisations desiring to book lecture dates should apply to Miss Lucy Burgis, W.S.F., 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.3.

POPLAR SOCIALIST SUNDAY SCHOOL meets every Sunday 3 p.m., 20 Railway Street, Poplar. Secretary, Eric Fleming.

OUR FUNDS

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.
All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.3.

Gratefully Acknowledged.

GENERAL FUND.—Miss E. Lowy (10s. monthly), £1; Miss L. Cutten (monthly), 5s. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Walkes £2 0s. 9½d.; Bow Women's Hall, 7s. 11½d.

FOOD DEMONSTRATION.—Per Mrs. Opperman, £1; Poplar L.R.C., 10s. 6d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—J. Leakey, Esq., £5; Mrs. C. E. Payne, £1; J. Robson Paige, Esq., 18s. 6d.; Mrs. Turner, 5s.; Mrs. Baillie-Weaver (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 2s.

"DREADNOUGHT" GUARANTEE FUND.—Previously acknowledged (weekly), £2 19s. 6d.

CLINICS AND SOCIAL WORK.—Wm. Holmes, Esq., £2 10s.; Mrs. Baillie-Weaver (monthly), £2; Miss B. Putnam, £1; Miss Wildman, 10s.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool-room, £1 6s. 9½d.; Misses E. Lagsding and J. Watts (Green's Yard), 11s. 5½d.; Nursery collectors, 10s. 10½d.; per Mrs. Mundy, 8s. 6d.; Miss K. Lagsding and D. Morley (Cubitt Town), 7s. 2½d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Lady Stalbridge; Miss Smith; Miss Putnam; Mrs. Boswell.

FLOWERS.—Mrs. Parry; Miss Whitehead.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

THE MOTHERS' ARMS CLINIC, DAY NURSERY, AND MONTESSORI CLASS; also CLINIC, 20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR, and CLINIC, 53 ST. LEONARD STREET, SOUTH BROMLEY.—Garments for Babies, Children, and Adults, Maternity Outfits, etc., Children's Toys, Pot Plants, Flowers and Branches, etc., always wanted.

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

WOMEN WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton.—Hostess, Miss Turner.

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THE TRAIL OF THE WAR

TORTURE AT THE FRONT
STATEMENTS OF N.C.C. MEN COURT-MARTIALLED IN FRANCE.

W. W. A., one of the men court-martialled in France, has made the following statement:—

"The smallest pair of 'figure-eights' was brought and screwed down upon my wrists and to get them on my flesh was ripped and cut in several places. The circulation was practically cut off, leaving my hands dead. I was then pushed into a cell and pinned against the wall by one sergeant, whilst the others in a most passionate rage struck me continually about the head and in the stomach. Then one burly N.C.O. lifted me bodily, and with his knee threw me backwards to the other side. This kind of treatment continued until I dropped to the floor. I was picked up but collapsed again, whereupon I was kicked several times in the middle of the back. Finally I became unconscious. The next morning a Staff Sergeant and a Sergeant visited me and again violently knocked me about until I fell to the ground winded by a sharp punch. I felt pains and bruises everywhere: my eyes were blackened, and one was completely closed: my jaw seemed locked on one side, and my nerves were out of control. Towards 9 a.m. a Corporal opened the cell and ordered me to work. To my reply, "I cannot," he seized me and threw me against the wall. He repeated the order, and receiving the same reply, drew his revolver, placing the barrel to my forehead, threatening to shoot me if I again objected. He reminded me that 'Dead men tell no tales.' He meant that his word (stating that his action was necessary in self-defence) would not be disputed. Seeing that I remained quite calm and did not reply, he put up the revolver and left me with a curse. About 10 a.m. I was taken out of my cell and two cement blocks, weighing about 35 lbs. each, were roped round my neck, one hanging upon my chest, the other upon my back. With my wrists still in irons behind my back, I was made to pace the passage at a quick march. At last, from exhaustion, I sank beneath the strain and remained in a fit about an hour. When I came to I was placed in the cell again until the afternoon, when the Governor visited me and gave permission for me to have blankets. At 4 p.m. I was given 6 ozs. of bread—the first food for 24 hours. At 4.30 my companions were sent back to their sections, but I was too ill to go, and remained the night and next day in the cell, without further medical attention until 12 a.m. . . . . The next morning the doctor examined me and gave me "light duty," stating that I had palpitation of the heart and that the occurrence was unfortunate. (Feb. 16th, 1918)."

H. W. L. says:—

"On one occasion I found it impossible to get my pint of water at night, the Sergeant stating that I should have to go without as he had not sufficient drinking mugs for all. During the second day I asked several times for water, but was refused as before. This went on for three days, at the end of which time I had to steal a drink from a fire bucket on my way down the corridor to get washed. The water in the bucket was old and dirty, but my throat was parched, and even dirty water was acceptable. As to the general conditions under which the prisoners live more could be written than would ever be believed, and much could not be described in words. We were huddled 14 in each tent. Owing to shocking sanitary conditions and to the fact that it is impossible to wash in the two minutes allowed in the wash-house twice daily, the vilest diseases are prevalent. Many men are covered with bad sores—the result of being unable to wash themselves properly. When it rains the men's blankets are often wet through on account of the bad condition of the tents. The ill-treatment which we received, and which is common throughout the prison, appeared to be administered in the first instance, apart from the Governor's authority. He could not, however, have been totally ignorant of subsequent abuses. A Chaplain from a neighbouring camp was passing the prison one day, and hearing shrieks from the cells he entered the prison and asked to see us (he knew we were in the prison). He was not permitted to see us, nor was he allowed inside the prison again, in spite of the fact that he held a service there once a week. Not once were we visited by the prison Chaplain, nor were we allowed to have Bibles—our own were demanded from us on entering the prison." These men were at Le Havre for a month, and are at present in a Home Office Work Centre. Their statements are endorsed by ten other comrades, who received similar treatment.

C.O. ARRESTS

C. H. Norman and I. P. Hughes, who were arrested at Princetown on February 23rd, without any charge being preferred against them, were court-martialled at Exeter Barracks on Saturday, March 2nd. The charge was that of refusing to put on uniform. When Lt. Green, the officer who had given the order, concluded his evidence Mr. Norman asked him whether they were under arrest at the time the order was given, and received the reply, Yes, they were. Mr. Norman at once raised the technical point that an order given to a man under arrest is not a lawful command. (Army Act Section 9, Sub-section 2, Note 9). After considerable argument the Court upheld the objection. Both prisoners were therefore found not guilty and acquitted. In spite of this they were again confined to the Guard room cells and given another order the same day.

Their second court-martial took place on Thursday, March 7th. Mr. Norman began his defence by objecting to the jurisdiction of the Court: according to Rule 590 of the Military Service Act. In support of his objection he produced the letter of the Central Tribunal of August 1st, 1916, stating that they considered he had proved his conscientious objection and would accordingly be handed over to the Civil Authorities. There was no evidence before this Court at Exeter that he had broken any law of military discipline, and only a Civil Court could judge him. Mr. Norman further quoted the dictum of the Lord Chief Justice in the Thomas case that a man in Section W. Reserve was not amenable to military discipline: and the decision of Mr. Justice Darling in Norman v. Brooke. Since August 14th, 1916, Mr. Norman declared he had been on work of "National Importance" e.g., stone-breaking and road-mending, when on February 23rd, he was suddenly arrested without charge and handed over by the civil to the Military Authorities; whereas it was only in the power of a Civil Court to hear evidence as to whether he had broken the regulations relating to work of National Importance. The President, however, declared that he must carry the trial through, though the Higher Power would decide later on the question of whether he had the necessary jurisdiction. Mr. Norman then pleaded "Not Guilty" to the charge of disobeying the lawful command of his superior officer and proceeded to cross-examine, eliciting the statement that, although Mr. Norman was honourably acquitted by D.C.M. on March 2nd, 1918, and the superior officer had "heard so indirectly" on a charge similar to the one now under discussion, he yet gave a second similar order at or about 2.30 on the same day to put on military clothes. Yet, as Mr. Norman elicited under cross-examination, the officer had seen no attestation or enlistment form of Mr. Norman's and he gave the order "for the purposes of carrying out a military duty," yet the soldiers at the Exeter Barracks are off duty at two o'clock p.m., and further, by the King's Regulations, under which detention barracks have to be administered, a man acquitted on one day, is exempt till next day from further military duty. Yet, for refusing an order illegal on that day Mr. Norman was placed under arrest and ordered to be confined to barracks. The President intervened to remark that Mr. Norman was not under arrest, he was merely "prevented from escaping," further, that the "military duty" was surely light enough, and anyway, he couldn't go about naked. Mr. Norman replied that not only was a soldier, by the King's Regulations, exempt from military duty on the day he had been acquitted by C.M. but also by the Common Law of England, a prisoner released from prison cannot be re-committed to prison on the same day. It was at this point that the President remarked that Mr. Norman was "merely prevented from escaping" when ordered to the cells in the guard-house.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG AGE PENSIONS.

Dear Friends of Humanity,—In order to relieve the terrible poverty and suffering that is devastating Europe, let us endeavodr to place the children and all those who are helpless in comparative safety by securing SEVEN SHILLINGS A WEEK each for them from the State, that we may be free to work for other reforms. At present, whilst they are exposed to cold, poverty and hunger, we can think of nothing else. 7s. a week would ENABLE FAMILIES TO MOVE AT ONCE INTO BETTER HOUSES, and to obtain better milk and food. This would stimulate local trade and reduce expenses of WORKHOUSES, HOSPITALS, PRISONS and LUNATIC ASYLUMS, and do away with all poor rates to such an extent as to be A GREAT SAVING to the taxpayers, and would enable sensible girls to marry where they would otherwise not dare to do so, and to bring up healthy happy children to become stalwart citizens and parents in their turn, besides relieving untold pain and suffering, and being an estimable benefit to the State.

The fact of a married man becoming automatically POORER at the birth of each child constitutes a cruel wrong to all children, and until each child has 7s. a week in its own individual right, as an infant citizen, suffering, war, disease, and poverty can never be abolished. Let us all demand this from our different Governments NOW, before it may be too late.

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